GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1518
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
MEDICINE FOR ASTHMA .
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether `Indian Institute of Chemical Biology` have claimed to develop an effective medicine for Asthma for the first time in the World which has no side effects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated number of patients suffering from this disease in the country;

(d) whether pollution is the main cause of this disease; and

(e) if so, the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): According to Vallbhbhai Patel Chest Institute no controlled study of any new drug for asthma has been published in a scientific journal by any organization in India in recent years.

(c)to(e): Studies for different part of India have reported that 2 to 15% of population suffers from asthma. Air pollution has been documented to be an important factor for asthma exacerbations. Facilities for treatment of Asthma is also available all over the country. The preventive steps taken by various governmental and other agencies include introduction of changes in vehicular and fuel technology, road transport and traffic management, preventive vehicular checkups, phasing out of old commercial vehicles, introduction of cleaner fuels and introduction of smokeless chullahs.